

Oppers are being honored on February 29, 2004 in Sacramento, CA on the occasion of the Shalom School's "Lighting the Way Gala" for their lifelong contributions to improving our society. Sy and Estelle's extraordinary dedication to helping others is worthy of this special recognition.

The Oppers have an exceptional history of humanitarian work. They provided goods and services to their community as owners of five plumbing supply stores and shared their success and time with deserving causes close to their hearts.

In addition to traveling to Israel for several missions, the Oppers are long-time members of American Israel Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC. Sy and Estelle are major donors and participants and helped the Jewish Federation purchase the property and building where Shalom School, Sacramento's only Jewish Day School, is located. Sy Oppers has served as president of the board for several Jewish organizations, including the Jewish Federation and B'nei Israel Congregation, and is currently serving on the board of the Trust Fund for the Jewish Elderly and the Jewish Family Service Board. Estelle Oppers has also been active in many Jewish organizations such as Hadassah, TDX, Sisterhood, Jewish Family Service and the Grandparents Club at Shalom School.

Children's and health causes have also been a priority for the Oppers. Sy has personally contributed and organized fund raising for the Washington Neighborhood Center of Sacramento. This center provides after-school programs that include performing arts classes and tutoring to at-risk children and teens. Estelle has supported and helped raise funds for the Breast Cancer Fund of San Francisco and the River Oaks Center for Children, a multi-service behavioral healthcare agency for abused children and their families. Estelle has also raised funds for the City of Hope National Medical Center that provides assistance to millions of people battling life-threatening diseases.

I applaud Sy and Estelle for committing their lives to the betterment of their community and beyond, and extend my sincere best wishes for their continued health, happiness and good work. Sy and Estelle Oppers are distinguished members of the Sacramento community, and it is with great pleasure that I recognize them today.●

#### RECOGNIZING LYNN AUSTIN MONROE

● Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, I want to speak about a great veteran of the U.S. Army, Mr. Lynn Austin Monroe. Mr. Monroe is a World War II veteran who honorably and proudly served his country in the European Theater as a mess sergeant in the Sixth Field Hospital. Prior to his overseas duty, he was an instructor in the Bakers and Cooks school at Camp Pickett, VA.

Major Reiber said Sergeant Monroe was the best instructor he ever had. From there he was sent to be the first mess sergeant to open the Finney General Hospital, Thomasville, GA. His next assignment was the transfer to England to serve as mess sergeant for the Sixth Field Hospital. He remained in that capacity until the war's end.

Often times he had to prepare meals without notice to feed a company of soldiers instead of a squadron. On one occasion, a hungry soldier came to Sergeant Monroe, who asked for a second helping of meat, which was chicken that day. The soldier said, "The chicken is so good, it ain't nothing but a Georgia bird, anyway." Wish granted. That was one happy soldier. In emergency situations, the Sixth Field Hospital kitchen staff would help unload patients who were flown in from the combat zone. Sergeant Monroe's joy as a serviceman in "The Greatest Generation" was feeding the Army of our great country as they fought to save freedom and democracy for future generations.●

#### HONORING FREDERICK AND MARY ANN LIPPITT OF PROVIDENCE, RI

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, this week, Frederick and May Ann Lippitt will be honored as recipients of Brown University's President's Medal.

The President's Medal is the highest honor a Brown president may bestow, and honors a person who has achieved distinction in a particular field, including education, scholarship, public service, the arts or philanthropy. It has been awarded seven times since its origination in 1994.

Fred Lippitt has spent more than four decades working on behalf of Brown, including 25 years as a lifetime Fellow, offering his expertise on countless committees spanning every aspect of university life.

Fred has given a lifetime of public service, including service as an elected member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives from 1961 to 1983, and as its minority leader for 10 years. He served as director of the State Department of Administration, as a Providence Housing Court Judge, and as the chairman of the RI Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education.

Mary Ann Lippitt, as the founder of Lippitt Aviation and a leader in a wide array of nonprofit and charitable organizations, has been a pioneer in demonstrating the role that women can play in business and community affairs, and she has inspired a generation of influential Rhode Island women. She has been a consistent supporter of women's athletics, including her own years as an Early Bird Swimmer. This is a testament to her commitment to ensuring a rewarding college experience for Brown's student athletes.

This award is well deserved. Fred and Mary Ann have been consistent advocates for the education and well-being

of all citizens, working for equality, opportunity, and assistance for those striving to advance through education. They are widely admired not only at Brown but throughout Rhode Island for contributing to the betterment of our State.

I know my colleagues join me in saluting Frederick and Mary Ann Lippitt on this achievement.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2696. An act to establish Institutes to demonstrate and promote the use of adaptive ecosystem management to reduce the risk of wildfires, and restore the health of fire-adapted forest and woodland ecosystems of the interior West.

H.R. 2707. An act to provide for an assessment of the extent of the invasion of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive on lands in the Western United States and efforts to date to control such invasion on public and private lands, including tribal lands, to establish a demonstration program to address the invasion of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 714. An act to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of Bureau of Land Management land in Douglas county, Oregon, to the county to improve management of and recreational access to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2696. An act to establish Institutes to demonstrate and promote the use of adaptive ecosystem management to reduce the risk of wildfires, and restore the health of fire-adapted forest and woodland ecosystems of the interior West; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3783. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6397. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation,